Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RLONG:EK
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119326

GENEVA FOR US DEL TO LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:TSPA, UN

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE: REMOTE SENSING
PAPER

REF: GENEVA 3602

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PAGE 4 OF FINAL POSITION PAPER ON
REMOTE SENSING:

QUOTE: DIFFICULT ONE, AND THE SOVIET PROPOSAL LIKE OTHERS
PUT FORWARD IS WELCOME AS EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS EFFORTS TO
ATTEMPT TO ANSWER IT.

THE SOVIET PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, RAISES ITS OWN QUESTIONS
AND WILL HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN GREATER DETAIL ALONG WITH
OTHER SUGGESTIONS BEFORE ANY DEFINITIVE EVALUATION IS
POSSIBLE. THE DELEGATION MAY NOTE THE FOLLOWING KINDS OF
QUESTIONS WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED.

(A) WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR THE PRESUMPTION THAT LINKS
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LOCAL DATA TO HIGH RESOLUTION AND GLOBAL DATA TO LOW RESO-

LUTION? ON THE BASIS OF OUR EXPERIENCE, BOTH CAN BE MOST
VALUABLE FOR LOCAL AS WELL AS REGIONAL OR GLOBAL RESEARCH.

(B) HOW WOULD THE THRESHOLD BETWEEN "HIGH" AND "LOW"
RESOLUTION BE DECIDED? THE SOVIETS HAVE STATED PUBLICLY
THAT LANDSAT DATA (C 80 M) WOULD BE CONSIDERED "GLOBAL" OR
LOW RESOLUTION; THE U.S. HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE INTEN-
TION OF GOING TO 30 M RESOLUTION IN LANDSAT D; THE UN
SECRETARIAT HAS RECOMMENDED 10 M RESOLUTION AS THE
"OPTIMUM" REMOTE SENSING LEVEL; PAST USE OF 10 M RESOLU-
TION IN SKYLAB PUBLIC PROGRAMS HAS ELICITED NO COMPLAINTS.

(C) WOULD A RESOLUTION CUT-OFF SCHEME NOT CREATE AN
UNDESIRABLE DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN ON ONE HAND THE TEN
TO TWENTY STATES WHICH MIGHT HAVE SPACE OR GROUND FACILI-
TIES AND WHICH WOULD HAVE BOTH HIGH AND LOW RESOLUTION
DATA FOR THE GLOBE OR A REGION, AND ON THE OTHER HAND ALL
OTHER STATES WHICH, BECAUSE OF RESTRICTIONS ON DISSEMINA-
TION, WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO HAVE ACCESS TO SUCH COMPLETE
DATA? UNQUOTE

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